

Remarks

Claims 23-25 and 27-33 are currently pending in this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 23-25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Deleonibus (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,076); rejected claims 23-25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (European Patent Application No. 0 480 635 A1); allowed claims 32 and 33; and objected to claims 26, 30, and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

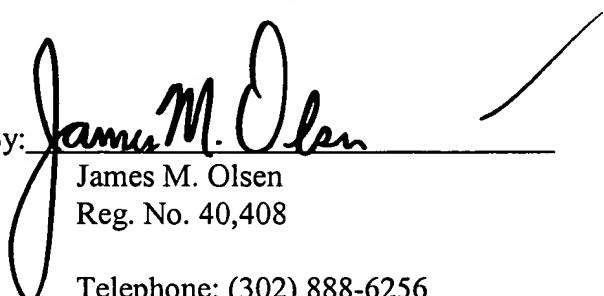
In light of the above claim amendments, Applicants believe that pending claims 23-25 and 27-33 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(e) and Section 102(b) rejection of claims 23-25 and 27-29, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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